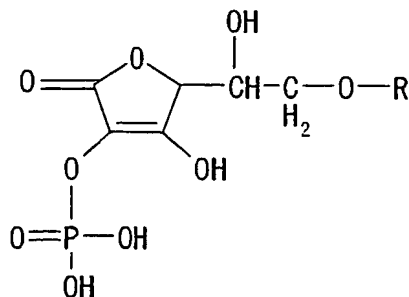


CLAIMS

1. An agent for skin external use, comprising:

a salt of higher fatty acid ester of ascorbic
 5 acid-2-phosphoric acid ester, said higher fatty acid ester of
 ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester being represented by the
 following formula (1):



Formula (1)

wherein R is a higher fatty acid residual group, and
 10 a polyhydric alcohol.

2. The agent for skin external use as claimed in claim
 1, wherein R in the formula (1) is a residual group of an
 aliphatic carboxylic acid of 10 to 20 carbon atoms.

15

3. The agent for skin external use as claimed in claims
 1 or 2, wherein R in the formula (1) is a residual group of lauric
 acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid,
 2-hexyldecanoic acid or isostearic acid.

20

4. The agent for skin external use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R in the formula (1) is a residual group of palmitic acid.

5 5. The agent for skin external use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R in the formula (1) is a residual group of 2-hexyldecanoic acid.

6. The agent for skin external use as claimed in any one
10 of claims 1 to 5, wherein the salt of higher fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester is a Na salt, a K salt, a Mg salt or a Zn salt.

7. The agent for skin external use as claimed in any one
15 of claims 1 to 6, wherein the salt of higher fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester is contained in an amount of 0.01 to 20% by mass.

8. The agent for skin external use as claimed in any one
20 of claims 1 to 7, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is a dihydric alcohol of 5 or 6 carbon atoms (when the number of carbon atoms is 5 or 6, a hetero atom may be inserted in the carbon chain).

9. The agent for skin external use as claimed in claim 8, wherein the dihydric alcohol of 5 or 6 carbon atoms is at least one dihydric alcohol selected from the group consisting of triethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol, 1,2-pentanediol, 1,4-pentanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 2,4-pentanediol, 2-methyl-2,4-pentanediol, 3-methyl-1,5-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,6-hexanediol.

10. The agent for skin external use as claimed in claims 8 or 9, wherein the dihydric alcohol of 5 or 6 carbon atoms is contained in an amount of not less than 0.05% by mass and less than 12% by mass.

11. The agent for skin external use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is at least one alcohol selected from the group consisting of dihydric or higher alcohols of 2, 3, 4 or 7 or more carbon atoms (when the number of carbon atoms is 3, 4 or 7 or more, a hetero atom may be inserted in the carbon chain), and the polyhydric alcohol is contained in an amount of 12 to 90% by mass.

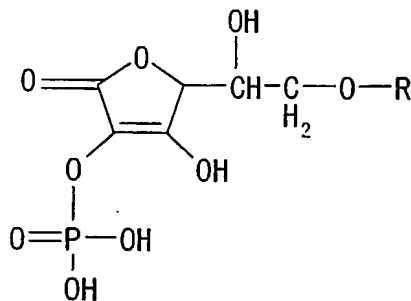
12. The agent for skin external use as claimed in claim 11, wherein the polyhydric alcohol which is a dihydric or higher alcohol of 2, 3, 4 or 7 or more carbon atoms (when the number

of carbon atoms is 3, 4 or 7 or more, a hetero atom may be inserted in the carbon chain) is at least one alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glycerin, 1,3-butanediol, diethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol and polyglycerin.

13. The agent for skin external use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein water is further contained.

14. A cosmetic comprising the agent for skin external use of any one of claims 1 to 13.

15. A method for stabilizing an agent for skin external use containing a salt of higher fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester, said higher fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester being represented by the following formula (1):



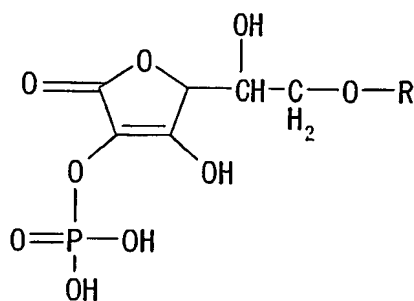
Formula (1)

wherein R is a higher fatty acid residual group,

said method using a polyhydric alcohol.

16. The method for stabilizing an agent for skin external use as claimed in 15, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is a dihydric alcohol of 5 or 6 carbon atoms (when the number of carbon atoms is 5 or 6, a hetero atom may be inserted in the carbon chain).

17. A stabilizer for an agent for skin external use containing a salt of higher fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester, said higher fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester being represented by the following formula (1):



Formula (1)

wherein R is a higher fatty acid residual group,

15 said stabilizer comprising a polyhydric alcohol.

18. The stabilizer for an agent for skin external use as claimed in claim 17, wherein the polyhydric alcohol is a dihydric alcohol of 5 or 6 carbon atoms (when the number of carbon

atoms is 5 or 6, a hetero atom may be inserted in the carbon chain).